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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/613,056	07/02/2003	Gary Glen Stringham	10019466-1	6646

7590 09/15/2004

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EXAMINER

CRAWFORD, GENE O

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3651

DATE MAILED: 09/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/613,056	STRINGHAM ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Gene O. Crawford	3651	

LM

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-49 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 and 41-49 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18 and 30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 19-29 and 31-40 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/2/2003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 18 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Carlin et al.

The system for distributing mail and method thereof disclosed by Carlin et al. includes all the claimed features and in particular includes: electronically receiving a print job and a list of addressees of multiple recipients to which the print job is desired to be delivered from a user's location 9, the print job being mergable with respective addresses of the list to define individual electronic mail pieces (column 5, lines 5-20); merging the print job with respective addresses of the list to define individual electronic mail pieces (column 5, lines 17-21); electronically routing the individual electronic mail pieces to respective postal facilities based on proximity to the addresses of the mail pieces (column 4, lines 52-55); electronically defining postal delivery routes for respective postal facilities as broadly claimed in that the mail pieces are electronically sorted according to zip codes which represent different postal delivery routes in the broad sense; and each postal facility 1 for which a mail piece has been received,

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printing out mail pieces for respective addresses in an order corresponding to the defined delivery route/zip code (column 6, lines 4-20).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-17 and 41-49 are allowed.
4. Claims 19-29 and 31-40 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: a system for distributing mail and method thereof including the unique features of (i) 'wherein defining a delivery route includes electronically receiving natural language descriptions of a route in a computer and translating the natural language to an addressee sort order for printing of the mail pieces'; (ii) 'wherein defining a delivery route includes defining a graphical user interface configured to present a map having streets displayed thereon to an operator'; and/or (iii) 'wherein defining a delivery route includes supporting a GPS unit from a postal delivery vehicle, and tracking GPS locations of a postal delivery route' all in combination with the rest of the claim language is not taught or fairly suggested by the prior art.
6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: a system and method of distributing mail including the unique features of (i) 'providing a printer in a postal delivery vehicle and printing out mail pieces from the print job on the printer in the vehicle' and/or (ii) 'determining if an address on the list of addresses represents a group

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defining multiple postal and electronic addresses and if so exploding the group into the multiple postal and electronic addresses' both in combination with the rest of the claim language is not taught or fairly suggested by the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

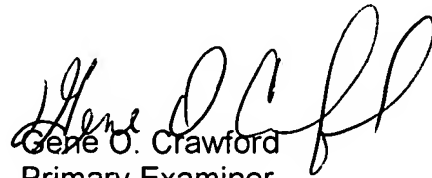
7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following are cited to show the art with respect to hybrid mail systems and methods thereof: Johnson et al., Brown et al., Gardner, and Lockhart et al.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gene O. Crawford whose telephone number is 703/305-9733. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Ellis can be reached on 703/308-1113. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Gene O. Crawford
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3651
